



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: IMMEDIATELY IMPOUND CARS ENGAGED IN STREET RACING**

Later this week, the Honolulu City Council is expected to endorse a resolution introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu), asking the City be given the authority to immediately impound vehicles engaged in "street racing."

"Although street racing is illegal, too many drivers on Oahu's highways still engage in this reckless behavior. With the next month's closure of the Hawaii Raceway Park, Oahu's only legal public vehicle racing facility, street racing is an issue we need to confront now. Honolulu needs a creative approach to combat this problem - the police need the power to immediately impound a car used in street racing. Studies show that street racers will continue to race no matter if the penalty is \$200 or \$2,000. Street racing can be deterred, however, if drivers are forced to forfeit a vehicle used in street racing. These street racing cars often represent a considerable investment of time and money by the drivers and the loss of such a vehicle can prove to be a more effective deterrent than any criminal fine. An immediate forfeiture law works in other municipalities around the nation and can work in Honolulu," stated Councilmember Djou.

"Street racing" is defined as either speeding in excess of 30 mph above the posted speed limit and/or racing another vehicle upon a public road. Immediate forfeiture of a racing vehicle upon a first offense has been successfully applied in cities such as San Diego and Los Angeles to deter street racing. Unlike San Diego or Los Angeles, however, Honolulu must obtain authorization from the state legislature to initiate such a program.

Hawaii Raceway Park, Honolulu's only legal public motor vehicle racing facility, is set to close next month. Closure of this facility may increase the number of drivers who foolishly take the practice of street racing to public roadways.

Resolution 06-007, introduced by Councilmember Djou, unanimously passed the City Council's Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on January 31, and is expected to win unanimous support before the full City Council Wednesday morning.

Six weeks ago, a childhood friend of Councilmember Djou died on Pali Highway after engaging in the illegal and dangerous practice of street racing.

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